undp

update

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news & events

New York. UNDP expects to receive more than US$1.06 billion in voluntary contributions for 1992, a 3.6 per cent increase over 1991. With contributions to UNDP-administered funds and co-financing, UNDP's total resources should exceed $1.3 billion in 1992.

The largest donor will most likely remain the United States, which is expected to make a "substantial increase" over its $109 million contribution last year, according to William H. Draper III, UNDP administrator.

Among traditional donors, Sweden will remain the second largest, with a pledge of $103.1 million. On a per-capita basis, UNDP's most generous contributor is Norway, whose citizens give the equivalent of US$20 of their yearly income to the organization.

In a 6 November speech before the pledge conferees, Mr. Draper expressed his appreciation to all donors. But he also said that he was disappointed in the fact that contributions for next year may fail to reach the growth target agreed upon by UNDP's Governing Council. "I must stress that unless we achieve our eight per cent target over the next five years, it will be difficult to meet planned country allocations," he said.

But if the contributions from traditional donor countries showed a mixed record of increases and reductions, the pledges from a number of developing nations rose sharply. India, which has been the largest developing-country donor for years, increased its contribution by 39 per cent, to $4.26 million. Hungary's pledge went up 26 per cent and topped $1 million. Other countries which promised to give more than $1 million included China, Cuba, the Republic of Korea Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Miami. As part of the lead-up to the "Earth Summit" in June, two conferences on women and the environment were held in Miami with the help of a $100,000 grant from UNDP. Margarita Arias, former First Lady of Costa Rica and the first woman candidate for president of that country, urged women to press for stronger environmental policies around the globe in a rousing keynote address before the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet.

"No one speaks out for the protection of the environment with greater moral authority than women," said Ms. Arias in her opening statement. "Only those who have fought for the right to protect their own bodies from abuse can truly understand the rape and plunder of our forests, rivers and soils." She added that the "problems of the biosphere are not external to us, nor can they be resolved simply through technical or legal means."

The women's congress met for five days beginning 8 November. The meeting followed a workshop organized by the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment.

More than 500 women from developing countries participated in the assembly workshop, some of whom were sponsored by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). A host of representatives from various foundations, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations also attended.

The workshop provided a forum in which participants could discuss ways women can help protect the environment. Presentations were made on more than 200 successful grassroots projects from all regions of the world in areas including water, waste and energy.

Paris. Over $49 million was raised to implement an education sector master plan for Mauritius at a donors meeting here on 5 - 6 November. The plan involves basic education as well as university and technical training programmes. It will also promote special education for children with learning disabilities. Such programmes are virtually non-existent now.

UNDP will contribute about $1 million to help get the plan off the ground. Other pledges were made by the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique, UNESCO and UNICEF.

Mauritius drew up its education master plan after participating in the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, Thailand, last year. Mauritius is among the first African countries that participated in the conference to do so.

Tegucigalpa. Human development will be the focus of a two-day summit to be held here on 12 December, which will bring together the presidents of six Central American countries and Panama. William H. Draper III, UNDP administrator, and James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, are among those expected to attend the meeting.

The seven countries participating in the summit are Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. The meeting marks the first time human development — especially infant and child health care — will be addressed as a specific topic by the group. Ten previous summits have concentrated on peace and economic issues. The meeting will culminate in the signing of a declaration outlining each country's plans to tackle various social welfare problems in the region.

Other international organizations expected to participate in the summit are the World Bank, the International Development Bank, the US Agency for International Development and the Comisión Económica para América Látina (CEPAL).

A donors meeting will be held next year to discuss funding for the various development projects presented for review at the summit.

Jerusalem. On 31 October, representatives from 18 donor governments and four intergovernmental organizations met here to discuss ways of making their assistance to the Occupied Territories more effective. The meeting, which was the first of its kind, was organized by UNDP and chaired by Roger Guarda, the newly appointed special representative of the administrator in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

To improve coordination of aid, all participants agreed to set up a common data bank of social and economic indicators, an information exchange system, and permanent sectoral working groups. UNDP will provide substantive and logistical support and will serve as the focal point for the entire effort. It also intends to involve non-governmental organizations working in the region in the new initiative.

"Aid to the Palestinians of the Occupied Territories is a delicate and sensitive matter, and coordination of aid even more so," said Mr. Guarda.

projects endorsed by the action committee

all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

23 October 1991

Cape Verde. Cape Verde, one of the world's least developed countries, is almost entirely dependent on foreign aid. Only a tenth of the nation's public investments comes from domestic sources. The government has been working to build a stronger economy through public administration reform, undertaken with the help of UNDP. The project is aimed at improving the management of state assets and external assistance.

The immediate goals of the third phase of the project include establishing a state audit service and preparing an audit manual.

Accounting and finance management training will also be sponsored in both the public and private sectors.

Funds of $461,000 from the Netherlands will pay for an expert in public audit, consultants, training and equipment. Government-executed in cooperation with the UN Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (UN/DTCD) and implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. (CVI/89/B01)

Cape Verde. The search for less costly and more environmentally sound energy sources has long been a top concern of the Cape Verde government. The economic expansion of the last decade has seen an increased demand for power in both the public and private sectors.

In 1982, a pilot project launched with assistance from the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) determined that wind plants could provide the country with a viable alternate energy source. A follow-up phase will see the project expanded to three rural areas: Sal, Santiago and San Vicente. The installation of a combined wind and diesel system in the Assomada rural centre will also be completed. Other objectives include organizational studies and staff training to strengthen the Centre for Renewable Energy. Project officials will also seek to prepare the utility agency, ELECTRA, and the municipality of Assomada for future management of the installations.

An investment package for the wind energy sector will be prepared and presented to the Danish government for bilateral assistance. Proposed UNSO contribution: $1,040,450 for subcontracts, consultancies, training and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Institute for Technological Studies. UNSO/CVI/90X02)

Costa Rica. A poor economy and a plague-infested cocoa crop have caused massive migration of rural farmers to Costa Rica's three largest cities: San Jose, Limon and Puntarenas. Today, these urban centres are home to scores of shantytowns with little or no access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

A global housing programme aimed at easing the migrant problem has been launched with help from UNDP, the Danish International Development Agency

(DANIDA) and the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

UNDP is supporting a training programme for women, children and community groups. The programme will focus on issues including waste disposal, water supply maintenance and sanitation management. Non-governmental organizations will be assisted, and revolving funds will be created. Studies will be made in promoting entrepreneurship.

Proposed UNDP budget: $1,994,030, of which $1,894,030 is government cost-sharing. Funds are to pay for consultants, subcontracts for construction and design of training programmes. Executed by Habitat and implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements. (COS/91/003)

Ecuador. Widespread poverty is causing rapid migration of rural populations to urban areas. Growing settlements in the outskirts of Ecuador's large cities lack access to basic services and continue to overwhelm the cities' meagre resources.

The proposed project, which is part of a DANIDA/Habitat global housing programme, will focus on stimulating grassroots development. Its aim is to help improve the living conditions in the settlements. Specifically, communities in Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca, will be taught how to design a number of self-help and income-generating initiatives. Training will be provided in such areas as housing construction and waste disposal. Special attention will be given to increasing the skills of women so that they can teach health, community organization and environmental protection programmes. Local groups or non-governmental organizations will be encouraged to participate through subcontracts.

Proposed UNDP contribution: $100,000. Third-party cost-sharing from DANIDA: $1,606,533. Funds will be used for a technical adviser, consultancies, subcontracts, community workshops and training. Executed by Habitat and implemented by the National Development Council under the Ministry of Social Welfare. (ECU/91/011)

Mozambique. In support of a national road rehabilitation programme, the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will provide funds to help upgrade a network of feeder roads and bridges in four districts east of Nampula Province. The assistance is aimed at boosting economic and social growth in Mozambique's major agricultural and fisheries zone. Here, poor roads have constrained the transport and marketing of crops. The reconstruction effort is also expected to spur rural employment and incomes. A District Maintenance Brigade, made up of local community groups, will be established to undertake repair works.

The World Food Programme is contributing $435,000 through its food-for-work policy. Proposed UNCDF budget: $5,452,000 for construction costs, equipment and materials. Proposed cooperating agency: UNDP's Office for Project Services (UNDP/OPS). Implemented by the National Directorate of Roads and Bridges, Ministry of Construction and Water. (MOZ/89/C02)

Mozambique. A UNDP-sponsored training programme will help improve the skills of Mozambican officials managing the reconstruction of the country's dilapidated road system. A 2,400-kilometre expanse of all-weather feeder roads is to be built in 40 critical districts over a five-year period. The programme will oversee the creation of a core management unit that will help plan and coordinate road rehabilitation and maintenance works at the central, provincial and district levels. Assistance will also include policy advice and training.

Proposed UNDP contribution: $5,852,600 for a civil engineer, a training adviser, UN Volunteers (UNVs), training and equipment. Executed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and implemented by the National Directorate of Roads and Bridges, Ministry of Construction & Water. (MOZ/91/007)

Niger. Due to a lack of skilled mid-level technicians in Niger, the services of 28 UN Volunteers (UNVs) will be made available through this project to help provide expertise and training in a number of critical sectors. Areas of assistance will range from water and hydraulic works, agriculture, economics, health and public works to computing technology and information systems. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,259,250 for UNV specialists and mission costs. Executed by UNV and implemented by the Ministry of Planning. (NER/90/015)

Niger. Higher education is yet another crucial area being tackled with UNV assistance to overcome a shortage of well-trained academicians in Niger. UNV will help upgrade the University of Niamey and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in the areas of chemistry, biology, physiology, academics, law and public finance. Twenty-four UNVs will be fielded to assume teaching positions while local staff are being trained through scholarship grants. The UNVs will also help in research and evaluation of students. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,166,800 for UNVs and mission costs. Executed

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by UNV and implemented by the Directorate of the University in coordination with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. (NER/90/029)

Panama. A modernization programme aimed at streamlining bureaucracy and reducing deficit spending is being developed in Panama with help from UNDP's Management Development Programme. The modernization plan will focus on the executive branch, civil service, macro-economics, poverty eradication, fiscal management, public enterprises, the Panama Canal and privatization. Proposed UNDP contribution: $532,000 for experts in public administration, training and mission costs. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy. Proposed cooperating agency: UN/DTCD (PAN/91/504)

Paraguay. UNDP's Management Development Programme is helping Paraguay carry out crucial economic reforms. Some 700 government officials will receive training in public administration. Proposed UNDP contribution: $502,800 for experts, a sub-contract, training and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the General Directorate for Public Personnel and Ministry of Finance. (PAR/91/508)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The immediate goal of this project is to improve the efficiency and reliability of the country's energy supply. This pilot effort will help link up an important computerized electrical monitoring system to a master control centre. Staff at the Electric Power Production and Dispatching Control Centre (EPPDCC) will receive training in coal mining and in alternate energy sources. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,903,000 for a communications consultant, computer equipment, a subcontract and training. Government-executed and implemented by the EPPDCC. (DRK/90/007)

Malaysia. Despite overall improvements in the Malaysian economy, poverty remains a problem in many regions of the country. UNDP will help the government promote balanced development with a goal of achieving a more equitable distribution of wealth. The project will provide policy advice and training for the Economic Planning Unit and related ministries. It will also support studies in such areas as long-term regional development, resource availability, rural and urban dynamics, and economic and social infrastructure.

Proposed UNDP contribution: $867,600 for a physical planner, an economist, UNVs, workshops and reporting costs. Government cost-sharing will pay for two computers. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by the Economic Planning Unit. (MAL/90/010)

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